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ON NO

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T25

COUNTRY Pakistan/India

DATE DISTR 22 NOV 49

SUBJECT Council for the Protection of Rights  
of Minorities

NO. OF PAGES 2

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. Within the last two or three months the Council for the Protection of Rights of Minorities, originally created in Calcutta in March 1948, has acquired many adherents. It is impossible to estimate the number of its supporters, but political observers believe it is expanding quickly.
2. The Council, which has its offices at 209 Lower Circular Road, Suite 2, in Calcutta, demands the independence of one-third of East Pakistan on the grounds that one-third of the inhabitants are Hindus. In addition, the Council is trying to drive a political wedge between East and West Pakistan by appealing to East Pakistan Muslims, many of whom feel they have been slighted by the Government of West Pakistan.
3. If the demand of the Council for independence proves successful, it would be followed immediately by accession to the Indian Union.
4. On 10 September 1949 the Council held a public meeting at Barrackpore which was attended by 10,000 persons; on 18 September 1949 another meeting at Ranaghat was attended by 5,000 persons. About 19 October 1949 a meeting is scheduled to be held at Karimgang.
5. The Council functions openly in West Bengal but has an underground organization in East Pakistan. Propaganda produced from its press in Calcutta is smuggled into East Pakistan.
6. The leader of the Council, Mr. J. P. Nitter, a Calcutta barrister, was junior counsel for the Government of India (GOI) during the Meerut trials. He is an anti-Communist. Nitter has a younger brother who is a judge in Calcutta.
7. Nitter has sent agents into Pakistan to make strategic surveys before sending in "raiders" to breed discontent and engage in other unspecified activities. General Lakhinder Singh, OOC, Eastern Command, Calcutta, is presently being court-martialed on the charge of accepting a bribe. Nitter is acting as his defense lawyer in the hopes of getting Singh to draw up the strategic plans for attacks on East Pakistan.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2001/11/26 : CIA-RDP82B00457R00570009-3

Document No. \_\_\_\_\_  
No Change in Class.   
 Declassified  
Class. Changed To: TS S  
Auth.: HR 70-2  
Date: 31 MAY 1978  
File No. 0009-3

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8. Mitter is in correspondence with Dr. Chaim Weizman of Palestine. It is believed Mitter hopes to get arms (light weapons, rifles, machine guns, etc.) from Palestine. None have arrived to date.
9. Pakistan protested to the Government of West Bengal about the Council. B. C. Roy, Premier of West Bengal, summoned Mitter on or about 25 September 1949. Roy told Mitter he could not support Mitter's organization unless he (Roy) was forced to do so by the Government of India. Roy said he was personally sympathetic to the aims of the Council. At present the Government of West Bengal is not backing the Council, but it is doing nothing against it.
10. S. P. Mukherjee, Minister of Industry, told Mitter that he was sympathetic to the objectives of the Council but that for the present no government support could be made available. Mukherjee said there were several people, whose names he did not mention, in Nehru's Cabinet who would give their support to the Council. He added that the attitude of Nehru could not be predicted but that Nehru may have to yield to the majority opinion of his cabinet. At present the Government of India is not supporting the movement.

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